

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

IDS

An IDS is submitted with this response to draw the attention of the Examiner to US 7101726 to Yamamoto et al. Yamamoto et al. does not have a series of narrow trenches below a contact pad. Rather, Yamamoto et al. has a single large hole for insuring contact below the contact pad. Yamamoto does not suggest either the step of making a continuous trench around a silicon region below a contact pad.

Claim Amendments/Status

Claims 16-23, 25, 30, 31-39 are pending in the application. Of these claims 30-39 are newly presented. These claims find support in the originally filed specification and claims and are patentable over the cited art in that they set forth subject matter which is neither disclosed in nor rendered obvious by the disclosure of said cited art.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103

The rejection of claims 16-21 and 24 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pourquier (US 6,960,483 B2) in view of Kirby et al. (US 2005/0275049 A1) is respectfully traversed.

This rejection is traversed in that Pourquier '483 does not suggest manufacturing a contact pad with a series of narrow parallel trenches below a contact pad. Pourquier does not have narrow trenches, and does not have several trenches below one contact pad. Rather, Pourquier has a single large hole for insuring a contact below the pad. Pourquier does not suggest either a continuous surrounding trench around the region below the pad.

Kirby et al does not suggest manufacturing a series of narrow parallel trenches below a contact pad. Rather, Kirby has a single large hole for insuring electrical contact below the contact pad. Kirby et al. do not suggest either a continuous surrounding trench around the region below the pad.

Pourquier '590 does not suggest forming a series of narrow parallel trenches below a contact pad. It has a single large hole for insuring electrical contact below the pad. Pourquier does not suggest either a continuous surrounding trench around the region below the pad.

Bazan does not disclose a process for manufacturing contact pads.

Min does not disclose a process for manufacturing contact pads.

Therefore, when taken either individually or in combination, the claimed subject matter cannot be made out and as such a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established.

Therefore the rejections of:

Claim 22 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pourquier (US 6,960,483 B2) in view of Kirby et al. as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Pourquier et al. (US 7,217,590 B2);

Claim 23 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pourquier (US 6,960,483 B2) in view of Kirby et al. as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Bazan et al. (US 6,515,317 B1); and

Claim 25 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pourquier (US 6,960,483 B2) and Kirby et al. as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Min (US 7,244,632 B2), are summarily traversed in that the basic combination of Pourquier (US 6,960,483 B2) and Kirby et al. cannot be relied upon to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of the subject matter as set for the claims as amended *supra*.

It will be appreciated that although the references have been discussed individually, this is not an individual attack on the references, but a prelude to pointing out how the combination of the references does not lead to the claimed subject matter.

Conclusion

All issues having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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